

should have done, but the reality is nobody knew this information. But, again, if he wants to criticize President Bush; let him attack him for health care, Social Security, whatever, but a war effort while we have soldiers on the ground and a very unstable situation in the Middle East with our ally, Israel, is very poor judgment, not just bad politics but poor judgment.

Mr. MCINNIS. The gentleman agrees with me there is something to be learned by September 11. We have learned a lot of things, whether it the design of our skyscrapers, what we could have done to assist our firefighters and our policemen more, maybe what we could have done for our fighter jets that scramble out there. There are lots of things we could learn from that. That was not the effort that was being made on Thursday. It was not an approach that said let us get together and figure this out. Maybe put our minds together and think out what constructively we could do to improve the situation.

Instead, it was a very targeted attack on the President of the United States alleging or implying or outright saying the President of the United States had knowledge prior to September 11 that would have allowed us to avoid September 11. That did not exist. And there is not anybody in these Chambers that had that kind of information. And to the best of our knowledge only the hijackers and bin Laden and his organization knew what was going to happen on September 11.

If we come together as a team, we can continue to put together or march forward to do, again, what was our number one calling. And our number one calling is to provide for the security and the protection and safety of the people of the United States of America.

LIFT THE RUSSIAN POULTRY BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am actually here tonight in cooperation with the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL), who I understand to be on his way over here, but wanted to talk about an issue to Georgia that has become a big economic issue; but it is also one of international trade having to do with Russia and its trade embargo against United States poultry.

I wanted to make a few points about that, Mr. Speaker, that according to the U.S.A. Poultry and Ag Export Council no U.S. poultry exports shipments have moved since the ban on American poultry was lifted in Russia. And Russia because of the competition used a non-tariff trade barrier to stop American chickens from coming into Russia, and then that ban was lifted. However, nothing has happened since then. And because of Russian paper-

work, at least 20,000 metric tons of U.S. poultry shipped prior to the ban that was imposed on March 10 now sit in Russian ports waiting to be unloaded. The import ban is costing the U.S. poultry industry more than \$25 million a week.

Although Russia has issued few import permits, it is abundantly clear that Russia wants to stop or substantially reduce the United States poultry program. Again, it is such a huge issue to our area, a big employer in Georgia.

Here are some of the impediments that Russia is using to stop the poultry: all previously issued import permits have been rescinded by Russia, even though these licenses were valid for additional quantities.

Russian importers are being advised that not only must they apply for new import permits to import poultry from the United States, they are also being told they must apply for new import permits for products currently waiting unloading at the port.

The Russian minister of agriculture told the U.S. that permits would be issued more or less automatically. That is not the case. Russia issues an import license but it is only a portion, sometimes as little as 25 percent of the requested quantity. So one cannot get in there with this.

Russia has issued as few of these import permits as possible. Even though they are not adequate standing alone, they still will not issue all of them. Despite the fact that on March 31, U.S. and Russia protocol does not call for the original USDA export certificate to be on board the ship that is transporting the poultry, the Russian minister of agriculture is demanding that the original certificate be on the transport ship. This is extremely costly and cumbersome. No other nation does these kinds of things.

Mr. Speaker, I can go on because there are lots of other issues that Russia is using as basically a paper tiger to stop American imports, but it is something that we urge the President to bring up on his trip to Russia and do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman who has been a lead on this. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is from the poultry country of Georgia. He is the one that has been leading our experts to try to get Russia to quit playing games and open their borders.

RUSSIAN POULTRY BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, many of us have lived through some very interesting times in the international political atmosphere. I think all of us were very pleased, of course, years ago when we saw the Berlin Wall collapse and when we saw the Soviet Union literally dissolve. And over the years that have passed, one of the

things that many of us have been encouraged about is the fact that Russia has become a new partner with the United States.

I know personally I was very pleased with the past visit with President Putin with our own President Bush and the relationship that they developed. I think that is certainly an encouraging sign, certainly something that our two nations will benefit from in the short term as well as the long term.

But I am here tonight to talk about a subject that I believe the Russian Government must address if they are to lay a foundation for a continued good working relationship with our country; and that is a result of a ban that was placed by the Russian Government on March 10 of this year on the import of all American poultry.

Poultry is somewhat unique in the agricultural scheme of things. It is totally unsubsidized. We have debated a farm bill, and it was a controversial bill in many respects in which we were attempting to do what we could to support production agriculture in this country. Much of it did involve subsidies; it involved quotas and allocations of production capacity. But the poultry industry stands on its own.

It is a very successful industry, and it has proven that it can compete all around the world. What has happened, though, is that Russia with this import ban has placed a tremendous burden on American poultry companies. In fact, it is estimated that they are currently losing in the neighborhood of \$25 million a week. Now, even though the ban has been supposedly lifted, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) referred to, there have been all sorts of artificial barriers that have been placed that as a practical matter have made it impossible for us to be able to ship any poultry. In fact, the indications are from the United States Poultry and Ag Export Council that no United States poultry export shipments have been moved since this ban was supposedly lifted. And, further, due to the Russian paperwork impediments, at least 20,000 metric tons of United States poultry that was shipped prior to the ban on March 10 are still sitting in Russian ports awaiting being unloaded or disbursed. And it is costing approximately \$10,000 a day for those shipments to remain there in the Russian ports.

There is a serious problem. It is one that the United States Poultry Industry needs the assistance of the President and his visit to Russia to talk with President Putin to stress on him the importance of taking affirmative action to remove these impediments.

Currently there are still bans on some States in the United States, namely, North Carolina, Virginia, Maine, and Pennsylvania; and that is because of an avian influenza outbreak and they are on the restricted list. My State of Georgia, which currently is the largest poultry producer in the United States, supplying somewhere in